

## **Interoffice Memorandum**

To: Select Board of Brookline

From: Caitlin Starr, Assistant Director of Diversity, Inclusion, & Community Relations

Date: May 6, 2021

Re: PRIDE Crosswalks and Proclamation

Cc: Melvin Kleckner, Town Administrator

Erin Gallentine, Commissioner of Public Works

Todd M. Kirrane, Transportation Administrator

Lloyd Gellineau, Chief Diversity Officer

In support of the Town's commitment to support a welcoming environment by encouraging cooperation, tolerance and respect among and by all persons who come in contact with the Town of Brookline and by advancing, promoting and advocating for the human and civil rights through education, outreach and advocacy staff from the Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Relations is joined by the Department of Public Works Transportation Division and student leaders from Brookline High School in recommending that the Town join our colleagues in municipalities within Massachusetts and throughout North America in proclaiming the month of June as LGBTQ Pride Month and to demonstrate this commitment publicly through the painting of PRIDE Crosswalks in the following locations:

### **At Brookline High School:**

**Across Davis Street at Greenough Street**

**Across Lowell Road at Greenough Street**

**Across Welland Road at Tappan Street**

**Across Washington Street at Thayer St near Town Hall**

**Surrounding Elementary School communities, as interested**

Since at least the early 2000s communities have used the painting of PRIDE Crosswalks in prominent locations as a symbolic and meaningful public demonstration of their community's commitment to support equal rights for the LGBTQ Community. In May 2019, the Select Board approved the painting of a PRIDE Crosswalk outside of Town Hall and Brookline joined local communities such as Arlington, Cambridge, Medfield, Northampton, Salem, Worcester and others. In 2019 the Town of Brookline followed in the footsteps of other communities that have made the painting a community event and involved members of the LGBTQ community to paint the crosswalks with Town staff support and oversight. In June 2020, due to COVID-19 and the regulations around social distancing, DPW committed to painting the crosswalk outside of Town

Hall.

The design of the crosswalks would be the same as the crosswalks painted in 2019 and 2020, which was similar to the two examples from Oakland, California and Phoenix, Arizona which have the colors of the racially inclusive PRIDE Flag painted in order between the existing white pavement markings. This maintains the crosswalks compliance with the Town's Crosswalk Policy Guidelines and enforceable as a crosswalk in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws. Specifically the guidelines require that a legal crosswalk have the one of the following marking design: two transverse white lines that run curb to curb OR two transverse white lines that run curb to curb with interior perpendicular lines OR just the interior perpendicular bars.



The proposed wording of the Proclamation is below and mirrors similar wording used in other communities, but tailored to Brookline's need. The signed proclamation will be included in the Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Relation's virtual display for Pride Month on the Town Website.

**SELECT BOARD OF THE TOWN OF BROOKLINE**  
**PROCLAMATION**  
**Recognizing June as LGBTQ Pride Month in the Town of**  
**Brookline**

WHEREAS, the Town of Brookline has a diverse Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning (LGBTQ) community and is committed to supporting visibility, dignity and equity for all people in the community; and

WHEREAS, many of the residents, students, town employees, and business owners within the Town of Brookline who contribute to the enrichment of our Town are a part of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning community; and

WHEREAS, various advancements have been made with respect to equitable treatment of lesbians, gay men, bisexual, transgendered, and questioning persons throughout the nation, but there continues to be discrimination against people from this community and around the world making it important for municipalities like Brookline to stand up and show support for our residents who are affected; and

WHEREAS, several cities across the United States recognize and celebrate June as LGBTQ Pride Month; and

WHEREAS, June has become a symbolic month in which lesbians, gay men, bisexual people, transgender, questioning persons, and supporters come together in various celebrations of pride; and

WHEREAS, the rainbow flag, also known as the LGBTQ Pride flag or gay pride flag, has been used since the 1970s as a symbol of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning pride and LGBTQ social movements; and

WHEREAS, painting the pride crosswalk at Town Hall further symbolizes the Town's celebration of diversity and support for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning community.

NOW THEREFORE, the Select Board of the Town of Brookline, Massachusetts does hereby proclaim the month of June as LGBTQ Pride month in the Town of Brookline, and invites everyone to reflect on ways we all can live and work together with a commitment to mutual respect and understanding, and further, recognizes Pride Month by painting a Pride Crosswalk outside of Town Hall and Brookline High School.